

## **Appointing retired TABC inspectors as special inspectors**

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HB 1144 by Gallegos/Lucio

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- DIGEST:** HB 1144 would have permitted the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) to appoint honorably retired commissioned inspectors or representatives as special inspectors or representatives to carry out, without compensation, orders of the commission or the governor. Special inspectors or representatives would have been required to post a bond against damages for unlawful acts. The commission would have been authorized to revoke an appointment at any time.
- GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:** "This bill would allow retired agents of the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission to continue to serve as peace officers without pay. I am concerned that these retired agents would not be as attentive to the direction and control of their former superiors at the TABC as they were when they were employees. The power over the life, health and safety of others that is given to commissioned peace officers must continue to be under the strictest supervision and control."
- RESPONSE:** Rep. Mario Gallegos, author of HB 1144, said the veto was unexpected, since the governor's office never expressed any concern with it. "This bill just makes sense," he said. The bill passed both houses on the consent calendars, without opposition, he said. The bill proposed a system similar to an existing one for retired DPS officers and to one proposed in a bill for Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens, which the governor signed. The TABC should be treated the same as these other agencies and should be allowed to appoint qualified, retired inspectors to help teach new inspectors, said Rep. Gallegos.
- NOTES:** HB 1144 was considered on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a *Daily Floor Report*.